

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed February 8, 2006, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the above claim amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-17 remain pending in this application and currently stand rejected. The claims as presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1, 9, and 14 have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the method is to be executed at least in part in a computing device and that a position of an object associated with an input in the electronic document is used to determine formatting associated with the object. Claim 2 has been amended to further clarify that the format of the input in the electronic document is determined based on a position of the corresponding object in the style sheet. Independent claims 9 and 14 have been amended to position based determination of formatting for the input in the electronic document similar to amended claim 1. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification (page 2, lines 26-29; page 3, lines 8-18; and page 11, lines 19-23). No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over White (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0014447) in view of Ichimura (U.S. Pat. No. 6,580,438).

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-8 are rejected as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The rejection of these claims is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 specifies a method of formatting objects in a page of an electronic document that can be executed at least in part in a computing device. The method includes receiving input for the page in the electronic document, tracking a position of the input relative to the page, and comparing the input to a style sheet comprising one or more objects with predefined formatting.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is directed to statutory subject matter because it produces a concrete, useful, and tangible result. In particular, the steps recited in claim 1 can be executed as part of a computer program consuming an electronic document.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. Claims 2-8 each depend from amended independent claim 1 and thus are also directed to statutory subject matter. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims should also be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0014447 to White (hereinafter *White*), in view of U.S. Publication No. 6,580,438 to Ichimura, *et al.* (hereinafter *Ichimura*). The rejection of these claims is respectfully traversed.

White discloses a data management system for generating customized versions of data documents, where the document is initially stored as in the form of raw data, which is subsequently parsed into an internal representation of the document (*White*, Abstract and paragraphs 0009, 0010). *White* also discloses a document generator includes a document

manager that includes a document table and a transform table. Document table contains rows of document records that identify and are used to read raw data documents from the raw document database. Similarly, transform table contains rows of transform records that identify and are used to read transforms from the transform database (White, FIG.4 and paragraph 0066).

Ichimura discloses methods and systems to manipulate presentation elements to create a unified display characteristic between the elements selected for presentation. *Ichimura* further discloses "The stylizer applies the selected or custom style to the presentation element with the cooperation of controller. In particular, the stylizer compares the detected presentation element type to a presentation element attribute table..."

Neither *White* nor *Ichimura*, alone or in combination, teach, disclose, or suggest each and every feature specified in amended independent claim 1. For example, *White* and *Ichimura* fail to disclose tracking a position of the input relative to the page, and comparing the input to a style sheet comprising one or more objects with predefined formatting, wherein a position of an object in the style sheet is used to determine a format associated with the object. In particular, *Ichimura* does not teach or suggest using a position of an object in a style sheet to determine a format for a corresponding input in an electronic document.

Accordingly, since neither *White* nor *Ichimura* teaches, discloses, or suggests each and every feature specified of claim 1, this claim is allowable and the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn. Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Amended independent claims 9 and 14 are directed to similar novel features as claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons

discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claims 10-13 and 15-17 depend from claims 9 and 14 respectively, and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons. Therefore, based on the foregoing, the rejection of claims 2-17 should also be withdrawn.

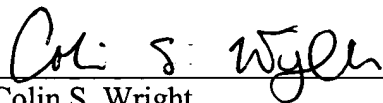
CONCLUSION

For at least the aforementioned reasons, the Applicants assert that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Applicants further assert that this response addresses each and every point of the Office Action, and respectfully requests that the Examiner pass this application to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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